

possible that in doubtful cases where the most careful examinations are of no avail Radiology may clear up a diagnosis.

Whatever the complication is it should be a rule for every physician always to think of the possibility of pregnancy when there is the least likelihood of it and under no circumstances to decide on any operative intervention until pregnancy is positively excluded. A single examination will not be sufficient in a number of cases; it may be necessary to examine the patient on several occasions.

It is of the greatest importance for the physician's reputation as well as for our patient's welfare, both physical and moral, that one should not commit himself in making or excluding a diagnosis of pregnancy unless one is absolutely certain of his findings. Any mistake may be forgiven and forgotten by the public, but a wrong diagnosis of pregnancy, whether positive or negative, will certainly remain the topic of conversation and comment for a generation.

It would indeed be both interesting and instructive to our profession if our mistakes of this character should be reported and discussed at our meetings. Such a practice would save the younger and some of the older men also from rash diagnoses and their patients from unnecessary mutilating operations. Let this consideration be my excuse for reading this paper.

415 FRANKLIN STREET.

SOCIETY PROCEEDINGS

Medical Society of the County of Erie

REPORTED BY FRANKLIN C. GRAM, M.D., Secretary.

BY invitation of the Faculty of the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo, the regular meeting of the Medical Society of the County of Erie was held in Alumni Hall, 24 High Street, on Monday, April 10 1911, at 8.15 p. m.

President McClure presided.

The President stated that inasmuch as the minutes of the last regular meeting had been printed in the *JOURNAL*, the reading of same would be omitted unless objections were offered. Hearing none, the minutes were declared adopted.

The Secretary read the minutes of the Council meetings of March 6 and April 3, 1911, which, upon motion, were received and filed.

Minutes of the Council meeting of April 3 contained three resolutions each of which were separately taken up.

The first resolution was unanimously adopted as follows:

Resolved, That the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York be requested to recommend such change in the Medical Practice Act as would raise the requirements for securing the medical student certificate to include, in addition to the standard high school course, one year in college or its equivalent, embracing especially the following subjects: physics, chemistry (inorganic and qualitative analysis) and general biology.

Resolved, That the State Society recommend to the Board of Regents that an investigation be conducted in order to ascertain the number of internships available in the hospitals of the state with a view to recommending a fifth year in hospital for the completion of the medical curriculum.

The following is the second resolution referred to:

Whereas, During the past decade, the subject of public health has assumed a great importance, having to do with the conservation of human life, through the control of our potable water supplies, our food products, the introduction of infectious diseases into the country and from one state to another and in various other ways, and

Whereas, It has a great economic importance in that this conservation of human life necessarily adds to the wealth of the country, and

Whereas, The public health can be more effectively conserved and more efficiently directed from the seat of National Government, be it

Resolved, That the Congressional representatives of this district be requested to use their influence to secure the establishment of a National Health Bureau with a Commissioner of Public Health who shall have a seat in the President's cabinet.

After a short debate upon the subject, the foregoing resolution was adopted.

The third resolution was then read as follows:

Whereas, In the larger cities in the state of New York, nearly half of the births are attended by midwives, many of whom are wholly untrained for the responsible work which they assume, be it

Resolved, That the Erie County Medical Society favor the adoption of an educational standard similar in character to that which is now provided for trained nurses, and that it recommends that the State Medical Society take such action as may lead to the establishment of a standard, the requirement of adequate examinations, with universal registration of all midwives practising in this state.

Dr. F. Park Lewis, Chairman of the Committee on Legislation, made some explanatory remarks relative to this resolution.

Dr. Pryor said he thought that the resolution should be made much stronger and that arrangements should be made for the education and training of the midwives and, therefore, moved, as an amendment, that this society recommend that some provision be made, in the larger cities, for proper training and education of midwives.

Dr. Van Peyma said that the only trained midwives come from Europe, and that if you insist that the standard and education be raised, provision must be made for their training also.

The resolution, as amended by Dr. Pryor, was adopted. The entire minutes of the Council were then adopted, and the recommendations contained therein approved.

Dr. Wall, Chairman of the Committee on Membership submitted a list of candidates, each of whom was separately ballotted upon and duly elected as follows: Edw. Villiaume, 398 South Park Avenue; George A. Stesel, 532 Winslow Avenue; J. H. Wild, 528 Elm Street; John Gurney Stowe, 743 Elmwood Avenue.

Dr. F. Park Lewis, read a letter from Dr. Green of Chicago, stating that Dr. McCormick, who represents the A. M. A., will be in this vicinity in the near future and asked that Dr. McCormick be given a hearty welcome to Buffalo. The exact date of Dr. McCormick's anticipated visit could not be stated.

Dr. Lewis moved that a committee be appointed from the County Society to take charge of the matter in conjunction with a similar committee from the Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Wende moved, as an amendment, that the subject matter be referred to the Council with power.

Dr. Lewis withdrew his motion and the amendment became an original motion and was adopted.

The business portion of the program being concluded, the following subjects were presented: A Few Ethical Suggestions, Dr. E. E. Haley; The Logic of Darwin with Regard to Man, Dr. F. M. O'Gorman; Some Clinical Cases, Dr. James W. Putnam; The Non-ventilation in our Public Schools, shown by lantern slides, Dr. H. R. Hopkins.

Each of the subjects produced a spirited discussion, and at the close of the discussion on Dr. Haley's paper, Dr. Wall moved that a committee of five be appointed to prepare rules governing the recommendations.

Dr. Pryor said his report on "Division of Fees," and which was adopted, provided for the appointment of such a committee, and suggested that Dr. Haley be appointed chairman.

Dr. Wall then withdrew his motion and the President said he would appoint such committee with Dr. Haley as chairman.

The members, at the close of the scientific program, adjourned to the Library where a collation was served.

Buffalo Academy of Medicine

A SPECIAL memorial meeting of the Buffalo Academy of Medicine was held May 2, to take action on the death of Dr. Carlton C. Frederick, its president. The memorial adopted is printed elsewhere. Addresses were made as follows:

Dr. Lothrop in addressing the Academy said:

After an intimate association of twenty years words are inadequate to express the feeling one has toward the man who has been to him a teacher, friend, a good, great, guiding brother. I feel in the loss of Dr. Frederick the loss of one nearer than a friend. I feel the loss of a brother. He has been to me first, a teacher and always a teacher, but mainly and largely the sort of friend of whom my father used to speak; "one who would stand without hitching." Of the personal side of his character I learned much in my early days as a student. His popularity among the boys in his class in obstetrics was striking, a popularity that was obviously due to the fact that he was absolutely unselfish with the knowledge he possessed. It seemed to me that he had a personal interest in every member of his class; that it was his desire to give everyone information on any subject which he knew anything about. That attitude was not confined to the class room but his students were welcome to come to his office at any hour of the day or night to have their problems solved with his assistance. In addition to his duties as teacher and lecturer he made us cordially welcome to any clinic, case or exhibition of medical interest with which he was connected. I think this characteristic of absolute unselfishness stamped him at the beginning of his teaching career.

His early days at the hospital I recall as though it were yesterday. The first laparotomy, a double pyosalpinx, under the guidance of Dr. W. S. Tremaine, and the succeeding hardships and struggles to which he was subjected in his efforts to adapt antiseptic surgery to the needs of the individual. It was the good old days, you know, when we washed our hands in pus and then operated; those days when wounds not full of pus were not healthy wounds.

I have witnessed the untiring patience with which he sought to unravel the mysteries of his art, the kindness he exhibited toward his patient, his forgetfulness of self, his willingness to stand at the bed-side if he felt his mere presence would comfort